

**NUTRITION AND ATHEROSCLEROSIS** — Louis N. Katz, M.D., Director, Cardiovascular Department, Medical Research Institute, Michael Reese Hospital; and Professorial Lecturer in Physiology, University of Chicago; Chicago, Illinois; Jeremiah Stamler, M.D., Previously Assistant Director, Cardiovascular Department, Medical Research Institute, Michael Reese Hospital, Chicago, Illinois and Established Investigator of the American Heart Association; Presently Director, Heart Disease Control Program, Chicago Board of Health, Chicago, Illinois; and Ruth Pick, M.D., Assistant Director, Cardiovascular Department, Medical Research Institute, Michael Reese Hospital, Chicago, Illinois and Established Investigator of the American Heart Association. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1958. 146 pages, 67 illustrations, \$5.00.

Dr. Katz, who is well known for his long-time research on certain aspects of nutrition and atherosclerosis, now summarizes in a brief monograph a vast amount of factual material on the question with a bibliography of some 800 references. There are 67 tables and charts. The author distinguishes the "built-in" hazards of developing arteriosclerosis such as hereditary factors, hypertension and others, but emphasizes especially the external factors, such as diet, which he believes serve to promote arteriosclerosis in those predisposed. All the statements made are heavily documented.

ARTHUR L. BLOOMFIELD, M.D.

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**RELIGIOUS DOCTRINE AND MEDICAL PRACTICE** —Richard Thomas Barton, M.B., B.S., M.D., F.A.C.S., Charles C. Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Illinois, 1958. 94 pages, \$3.75.

This small book is designed to provide a reference for questions of religious dogma as they pertain to the practice of medicine. This is a complicated business because of the very considerable differences in the beliefs of various faiths and, indeed, in the sects found within many great religions, and between the teachings of the founder and the actual practice. Consequently, a volume which attempts to cover such a wide range accurately has difficulty with documentation.

The author emphasizes that his book is in no way complete. The reviewer finds both the historical and the religious portions somewhat superficial. The completeness and the exactness are at their best in the section on Catholicism, next in other Christian religions and at their worst in the discussions of religions of Asiatic and of Middle Eastern origin. Which is perhaps as it should be, considering the people at whom the book is aimed.

All in all, this is a handy, small concise reference, perhaps the best available to the local profession.

EDGAR WAYBURN, M.D.

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**PENICILLIN—Antibiotics Monographs, No. 9**—Harold L. Hirsh, M.D., and Lawrence E. Putnam, M.D., Washington, D.C. Foreword by Harry F. Dowling, M.D. Medical Encyclopedia, Inc. 30 East 60th Street, New York 22, N. Y., 1958. 148 pages, \$4.00.

The reason for this book on penicillin is succinctly and comprehensively stated in the foreword by Dr. Dowling: "For 15 years, doctors have been treating patients with penicillin. Many physicians in practice today do not know what illness can be like without penicillin. . . . During these 15 years several highly effective antibiotics have been introduced, but penicillin still remains supreme in several respects. . . ."

The comprehensive approach ends largely with the foreword and the book rapidly becomes a combination of a miniature textbook of medicine of no particular distinction and a "cookbook"-type compilation of penicillin prescrip-

tions. It is both tiresome and wasteful to have recurring paragraphs every few pages . . . "50,000 units every four hours, 100,000 units every six hours, 200,000 units every eight hours, or 500,000 units every 12 hours. . . ." Most of this is an insult to the reader's intelligence, a waste of paper, and an indication of an archaic approach to the presentation of sensible chemotherapy. To make it somewhat worse all this cookbook material is presented twice, in the text and in separate tables.

There is also a peculiar lack of discrimination in the material presented. One wonders, for example, what might be the purpose of listing all penicillin preparations, from crystalline penicillin G through a penicillin-streptomycin-bacitracin dental paste, without any comment concerning the applicability of the preparation, or a judgment on its worth. Likewise the authors quote a number of reports from the literature without any attempt at interpretation.

From the above it is evident that this reviewer has little admiration for this book and believes that it is a very undistinguished member of this series of monographs. Few physicians will want to purchase the monograph and I doubt that drug companies will distribute it gratis.

ERNEST JAWETZ, M.D.

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**STREPTOMYCIN AND DIHYDROSTREPTOMYCIN—Antibiotics Monographs, No. 10**—Louis Weinstein, Ph.D., M.D., Professor of Medicine, Tufts University School of Medicine; Lecturer on Infectious Disease, Harvard Medical School; Chief of the Infectious Disease Service and Senior Physician, Medical Service, New England Center Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts; and N. Joel Ehrenkranz, M.D., Assistant Professor of Medicine, University of Miami School of Medicine; Chief of the Infectious Diseases Section, Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami, Florida. Foreword by Chester S. Keefer, M.D. Medical Encyclopedia, Inc., 30 East 60th Street, New York 22, N. Y., 1958. 116 pages, \$4.00.

After the preceding monograph, this No. 10 is like a delightful breath of fresh air. The straightforward, unassuming yet sophisticated presentation is in keeping with the authors' high competence as investigators and clinicians. Tabular material and figures from the literature or the authors' own experience are used to illustrate specific, important points.

The chemical, biological and pharmacological properties of streptomycin and dihydrostreptomycin are presented with discrimination and the use of the drugs in general medicine is superbly described. Tuberculosis is specially omitted, because it forms the basis for another monograph in the series. Of particular value and importance are the thoughtful sections on superinfection, intrathecal administration in influenza meningitis, and the general risks and advantages of that route, in various forms of meningitis. Four hundred and sixty references are thoughtfully interpreted.

This is an excellent little book which must grace the library of every hospital.

ERNEST JAWETZ, M.D.

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**MANUAL FOR THE APHASIA PATIENT**—Mary Coates Longerich, Ph.D., College of Medical Evangelists, School of Medicine, Los Angeles, California. Foreword by J. M. Nielsen, M.D. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1958. 277 pages, \$4.75.

This is a practical guide for the speech therapist dealing with patients with aphasia, giving specific directions for treatment, with suggestions of the place of the family in the total treatment picture. Although it is conceivable that with the aid of this manual treatment might be undertaken by members of the family without the help of a speech therapist, this would probably be only in exceptional cases.

HENRY NEWMAN, M.D.